

Principles of Sustainability

“Greening” the Highlands Center

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Highlands Center
At Cape Cod National
Seashore



An important aspect of the Highlands Center’s mission is it’s aim to be a regional model of environmental sustainability. Program Partners are strongly encouraged to use sustainable practices and technologies in design, building rehabilitation, and in ongoing site operations. This sustainability goal aligns with the NPS’s philosophy that “green” practices be incorporated into all of its operations.

The U.S. Green Building Council's voluntary Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System provides a framework of state-of-the-art strategies to accomplish sustainable design. Partners are encouraged to consider such standards and the LEED certification process. See the chart below for some of the Highlands Center’s “Principles of Sustainability.”

Sustainable

Site



- Enable and encourage bicycle and pedestrian use; use summer shuttle service.
- Plant native species and promote open spaces.
- Minimize pollution and protect groundwater resources.
- Investigate storm water collection systems for irrigation.
- Consider sound emissions of activities and limit light pollution from exterior lighting to preserve natural quiet and night sky.

Energy and Atmosphere



- Promote energy conservation through energy efficient construction methods, systems, fixtures, appliances and controls.
- Maximize the use of natural daylight and ventilation.
- Promote the use of alternative fuels and renewable energy (wind and solar).
- Integrate passive heating and cooling into building design.

Materials and Resources



- Maximize use of recycled construction materials; restrict toxic materials.
- Encourage the use of sustainable wood and locally made products.
- Establish a comprehensive recycling program.
- Rehabilitate existing buildings and maximize reuse and recycling of construction waste.

Environmental Air Quality



- Use environmentally friendly furnishings and cleaning products.
- Provide a high degree of thermal and lighting control to the occupants.
- Implement an indoor air quality management program for construction.
- Use windows and doors to maximize natural airflow/ventilation.

Water Efficiency



- Install alternative water and waste water systems such as rainwater and greywater recycling and composting toilets.
- Promote water conservation: use low-flow water fixtures in buildings.